MISCELLANEA.

INSECTS.

NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF *Aphiochaeta ferruginea*, MIHI.—In the *Records of the Indian Museum* for February, 1912, I published a description of the above Phorid, and stated that two generations had been bred by me from a dead lizard, but that the notes made at the time had been mislaid.

After long-continued search these have at last been found and the present short report embodies them.

The lizard (*Calotes versicolor*, Daud.) was put alive into an ordinary pickle jar, the cork fitted so as to allow air to enter.

I had noticed two or three small flies about the jar for a couple of days before the lizard died, but cannot be sure they were the same species. The lizard died, to the best of my recollection, after two days' incarceration, and the young larvae were noticed the next day, when they were nearly a quarter of an inch long, so either the eggs must have been laid in the living lizard or they must have hatched and grown to that size in twenty-four hours.

The dead lizard was removed and a little cooked rice and a piece of roast duck put in.

The larvae pupated in about four or five days, coming to the top of the jar *outside* (the jar was left partly open), all round the edge of the cover. I picked them off and placed them in a glass-topped box. Practically all the flies emerged on one day, about a week after pupating.

The imagos had been out about five days, and on Sunday morning (August 4th, 1907) there were no signs of larvae. On Sunday evening I put in a small piece of roast duck, and on Tuesday morning (6th) some young larvae nearly one-fifth of an inch long were seen. About a hundred appeared, crawling with ease up the glass. They had two black hooks on the under surface of the head, resembling the tusks of a walrus. On Sunday the 11th four or five pupated; on Monday (12th) I draped up the top of the box and gave them no more food; six or eight more pupating the same day. On Tuesday (13th) three flies were found by 6 P.M., a number more pupating on Wednesday. Two days afterwards (16th) nearly all (150) pupated, but some young larvae (about a dozen) still remained This may have been due to restricted growth through being crowded out for want of food, as all that was left of the latter was liquid and bad smelling. Possibly a later emergence from the egg may have caused the delay in their development. The pupae were small, yellow and

soft. Some further larvae half grown had unsuccessfully endeavoured to pupate. I put in fresh food and left them to their own devices. There must have been numerous other larvae too small to be noticed (unless indeed, a 3rd generation sprang up from the three flies that emerged August 13th of which, by the way, the sexes were not noted), for by Sunday the 18th there were nearly a hundred fairly well fed up larvae. No further food was given.

On Tuesday (20th) from 40 to 50 pupated, on Thursday evening (22nd) three flies emerged and on Friday and Saturday (23rd, 24th) sixty more The rest appeared during the next three days and no further notes were kept.

Some figures of this species are included in the plate to my paper "New Oriental Diptera, I."

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